

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: USNATO, OVIP (BYRD, ROBERT C.)

SUBJECT: TEXT OF LETTER FROM SENATOR BYRD TO SYG LUNS

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FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A LETTER FROM SENATOR ROBERT C.
BYRD (D.-W.VA.), SENATE MAJORITY LEADER, WHICH MISSION IS
REQUESTED TO SUBMIT TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL. ORIGINAL
SIGNED LETTER FROM SENATOR BYRD FOLLOWS BY POUCH.

BEGIN QUOTE:
JULY 12, 1978
HIS EXCELLENCY
JOSEPH M.A.H. LUNS
SECRETARY GENERAL
NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION
BRUSSELS

DEAR MR. SECRETARY GENERAL:
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IT WAS A VERY GREAT PLEASURE TO MEET WITH YOU ON MY
TRIP TO EUROPE LAST WEEK, AND LEARN FIRSTHAND FROM YOU
OF THE WORK THAT IS GOING ON IN THE WESTERN ALLIANCE TO
IMPROVE THE POSTURE AND CAPABILITIES OF NATO FORCES.

MY VISIT TO BRUSSELS AND MY TALKS WITH BRITISH

AND GERMAN LEADERS REINFORCED MY BELIEF THAT THE ALLIANCE IS FUNDAMENTALLY SOUND AND HEALTHY, AND THAT THE INITIATIVES THAT WERE ENDORSED AT THE WASHINGTON SUMMIT IN MAY HOLD MUCH PROMISE FOR IMPROVING THE MILITARY EFFECTIVENESS OF NATO FORCES.

WE IN THE CONGRESS WILL BE LOOKING WITH KEEN INTEREST AT THE IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-THROUGH OF THESE MEASURES, AS YOU KNOW. YOUR ROLE IN THIS PROCESS IS A CRUCIAL ONE. THE ALLIANCE IS FORTUNATE TO HAVE A MAN OF YOUR EXPERIENCE AND WISDOM AS SECRETARY GENERAL, AT A TIME WHEN PROGRAMS OF SUCH CRITICAL IMPORTANCE ARE GETTING UNDERWAY.

YOUR COMMENTS AND COUNSEL ON THE POLITICAL ISSUES FACING THE ALLIANCE WILL BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL TO ME IN COMING MONTHS. I FEEL I HAVE A MUCH BETTER PICTURE OF THE PERSPECTIVE FROM NATO HEADQUARTERS AS A RESULT OF OUR DISCUSSIONS, AS A BACKGROUND FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION ON THE MANY ISSUES THAT AFFECT THE SECURITY OF ALL OF US.

I HOPE TO HAVE THE CHANCE TO RESUME OUR DISCUSSIONS, AND WOULD ASK THAT YOU LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU ARE IN WASHINGTON SO THAT WE MAY DO SO.

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SINCERELY YOURS,

ROBERT C. BYRD
MAJORITY LEADER

END QUOTE.

CHRISTOPHER

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